

Patent

REMARKS

Claims 12, 13, 15, 17-26, 28, 29, 31, and 32 are pending in the present application. In the above amendments, claims 15 and 17-19 have been amended.

Applicants respectfully respond to this Office Action.

Claims 15 and 17-19 have been rewritten to differently characterize the invention. These claims are free of 35 U.S.C. § 112 deficiencies.

In the Office Action mailed August 25, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 12, 13, 15, 17, and 18, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,345,078 by Basso (herein after "Basso"). Applicants respectfully traverse Examiner's characterization of Basso. In all of Basso's teaching, all time tracking is performed subsequent to the comparison of a finger's offset with respect to all other fingers. Basso never defines motion limits and therefore is silent as to tracking outside motion limits, determining motion limits, and as to whether to include or exclude either an advance or retard limit. By contrast, the pending application teaches, for example, in claim 12, restricting each finger from tracking outside motion limits for that finger and determining the motion limits for a finger in accordance with a position of one or more adjacent fingers, among other limitations. Similar arguments apply for claims 13, 15, 17, and 18.

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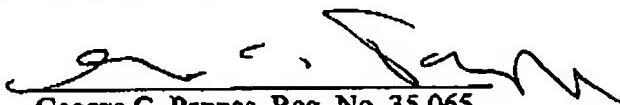
REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 24, 2004

By:


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